security cell has been instructed to ensure strict security measures in the bank's New Delhi Local Head Office Premises.

Branches of Regional rural banks

3985. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of Regional Rural Banks functioning at presentation each of States;

(b) the number of branches of such banks proposed to be opened in each State during the current year;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on opening of the new branches;

(d) the role played by the Regional Rural Banks in the economic development of the rural areas; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the Regional Rural Banks fulfil the role assigned to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) There were 14539 branches of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning in various States as at the end of March, 1992 as indicated in Statement I (*See* below)

(b) According to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), RRBs were yet to open 58 branches in different States during the current year, for which licences had been issued, as indicated in Statement II (*See* below)

(c) The expenditure involved in the establishment of new branches depend upon the location of the branches, manpower employed, and other expenses involved which vary from bank to bank, and, therefore, no estimates of likely expenditure can be made.

(d) RRBs have helped the economic development of rural areas in a number of ways e.g. by taking the banking services to the doorsteps of rural masses particularly in hitherto unbanked areas through 14539 branches, making available institutional credit of Rs. 4086 crores (outstanding as of March, 1992) to the weaker sections of the society, mobilising rural savings to the extent of Rs. 5851 crores as of March, 1992, and channelising the same for productive activities in rural areas and creating employment opportunities for weaker sections in the rural areas.

(e) Regional Rural Banks have been established with the objective of providing concessional audit mainly to the target group borrowers namely small farmers, marginal farmers and landless labourers, rural artisans, etc. Having regard to the general need for imparting viability to lending operations of the RRBs, recently relaxation in the existing norms has been made and as a result RRBs have been permitted to finance non-target groups to an extent not exceedig 40 per cent of their incremental lending. The area of operation of these banks is usually confined to one of two districts and, therefore, the resources raised by them have been ploughed back for supporting developmental activities in the same area.

Statement I

Statement showing the number of branches of Regional Rural Banks in various states

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Region	No. of branches
1	Haryana	291
2	Himachal Pradesh	129
3	Jammu & Kashmir	208
4	Punjab	201
5	Rajasthan	1068
6	Arunachal Pradesh	19
7	Assam	404
8	Manipur	29
9	Meghalaya	51
10	Mizoram	50
11	Nagaland	8
12	Tripura	90
13	Bihar	1892
14	Orissa	819
15	West Bengal	864
16	Madhya Pradesh	1602
17	Uttar Pradesh	3056
18	Gujarat	430
19	Maharashtra	590
20	Andhra Pradesh	1126
21	Karnataka	1075
22	Kerala	269
23	Tamil Nadu	208
	TOTAL	14539

Statement-II

The number of branches to be opened by Regional Rural Banks in different States by 31-3-93

Sl. No.	Name of State	Branches yet to be opened
1	Rajasthan	1
2	Assam	22
3	Manipur	6
4	Meghalaya	1
5	Mizoram	3
6	Nagaland	2
7	Tripura	2
8	Bihar	5
9	Madhya Pradesh	9
10	Uttar Pradesh	2
11	Maharashtra	4
12	Karnataka	1
	TOTAL	58

Recruitment system in Nationalised Banks

3986. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of Charlu Committee on the recruitment system in the nationalised banks have been accepted by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The following important recommendations made by the Charlu Committee have been accepted by Government and are being implemented by BSRBs:—

(1) Age limit for recruitment to officer cadre has been brought at par with the maximum age prescribed for civil services examinations of the Government.

(2) Minimum qualifying marks in the interview have been dispensed with.

(3) The objective test papers to be bilingual.

(4) The cut off mark is being determined on the basis of the aggregate marks obtained by all the competing candidates subject to their securing minimum qualifying marks in each of the objective tests.

(5) Candidates, not more than three times the number of vacancies, are being called for interview.

(6) The final merit list is being drawn up on the basis of the aggre-